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Selected Speeches and News Releases

October 1 - October 8, 1987

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

NEW ADMINISTRATORS NAMED FOR THE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, AND THE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Dr. Donald Houston, currently administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, has been named administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

In his new position, Houston will administer programs related to animal and plant health and quarantine, humane treatment of animals, and the control and eradication of pests and diseases.

Bert Hawkins, former administrator for APHIS, will become a special assistant to Secretary Richard E. Lyng.

Dr. Lester Crawford has been named to replace Houston as administrator of FSIS. Crawford had been serving as the agency's associate administrator. FSIS is responsible for administering the federal meat and poultry inspection program.

Houston and Crawford will assume their new duties October 11.

"Dr. Houston brings to his new job many years of experience as a outstanding manager of a federal regulatory agency, a veterinarian and a scientist," said Kenneth Gilles, assistant secretary for marketing and inspection services. "Secretary Lyng and I have long held Dr. Houston and his abilities in high regard and expect his considerable skills to bring an added dimension to the agency," he said.

"Dr. Crawford since joining FSIS has brought an important scientific perspective to the agency," said Gilles. "The role of science has become increasingly important in our efforts to design more effective and efficient systems of inspection. Dr. Crawford's considerable scientific credentials, as well as his past experience in managing a public health agency, can be expected to continue the agency's progress in that direction."

Gilles said that, "both these appointments represent our determination to make personnel changes that assure the strongest possible management of federal programs."

Houston received his degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Illinois, Champaign, in 1959. After serving as an officer in the U.S.

Army Veterinary Corps, he joined the department in 1961 as a veterinary medical officer in the meat inspection program.

He was named administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service—the meat and poultry inspection program—in 1979, and continued in that position when it reorganized as the Food Safety and Inspection Service in 1981. Houston also holds the position of U.S. Coordinator and delegate to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Dr. Crawford received his degree in veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 1963 and was graduated with a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Georgia in 1969. From 1966-82, he was on the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia. He variously served as assistant dean, associate dean and head of the department of physiology- pharmacology at Georgia. Since 1980, he has been Adjunct Professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1987, Dr. Crawford was awarded an honorary doctorate from Budapest University of Veterinary Science.

Dr. Crawford served as director of the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration from 1978 to 1980 and returned to the position in 1982. He joined FSIS as the associate administrator in January of 1986.

John McClung (202) 447-8005

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.54 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.80 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.73 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.77 cents per pound.

Loan repayment rates for 1986 or 1987 crop warehouse or farm-stored rice loans are the higher of the world prices or 50 percent of the loan rates.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, the estimated average world prices for 1987 crop rough rice are:

- long grain, \$5.91 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.55 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.39 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Oct. 13 at 3:00 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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USDA ANNOUNCES TARGETED EXPORT ASSISTANCE ALLOCATIONS FISCAL YEAR 1988

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced 34 projects that will receive \$80 million in Targeted Export Assistance (TEA) allocations for fiscal year 1988.

Additional TEA allocations may be announced later depending on the outcome of the fiscal year 1988 budget process. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided \$110 million in Commodity Credit Corporation funds or commodities in fiscal years 1986 and 1987 for TEA projects.

The TEA program, authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985, uses surplus stocks from the CCC to help U.S. producers finance promotional activities for U.S. agricultural products to counter or offset the adverse effects of unfair foreign trade practices.

Goldberg said the 1988 promotion efforts will cover a wide range of U.S. agricultural commodities including horticultural products, feed grains, wheat, meat, poultry, seafood, cotton, wood products and other high-value products.

To be considered for a TEA allocation, industry representatives submitted project proposals to USDA. USDA evaluated those proposals using several criteria: (1) identification of an unfair foreign trade practice and how it adversely affected exports, (2) the organization's willingness to contribute resources to the joint project, and ability to represent U.S. producer interests on a commodity or nationwide basis, prior export development experience and ability to handle the program, and (3) the prospects for the project's success in increasing exports or mitigating the unfair trade practice.

The TEA program will be administered by the Foreign Agricultural

Service through cooperative agreements between the CCC and the agricultural industry representatives listed below.

For additional information and referral to the appropriate program contact, call (202) 447-5521.

PARTICIPANT	AMOUNT (millions of dollars)
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute	0.70
American Plywood Association	1.20
American Soybean Association	8.50
California Avocado Commission	0.45
California Cling Peach Advisory Board	5.70
California Kiwifruit Commission	0.50
California Prune Board	4.50
California Raisin Advisory Board	9.80
California Table Grape Commission	0.75
Catfish Farmers of America	0.05
Chocolate Manufacturers Association of the USA	2.50
Cotton Council International	1.45
Eastern United States Agricultural &	1.10
Food Export Council	6.00
Export Incentive Program (Almonds)	
Export Incentive Program (Processed Corn)	1.50
Export Incentive Program (California-Arizona Citrus)	10.50
Leather Industries of America	1.50
Mid-America International Agri-Trade Council	1.10
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	0.35
National Dry Bean Council	0.30
National Peanut Council	0.50
National Potato Promotion Board	2.40
Northwest Horticultural Council (Apples)	2.00
Northwest Horticultural Council (Cherries)	0.45

Northwest Horticultural Council (Pears)	0.40
Southern United States Trade Association	1.10
Tobacco Associates	0.40
U.S. Feed Grains Council	0.80
U.S. Meat Export Federation	1.00
U.S. Poultry & Egg Export Council	1.00
U.S. Wheat Associates	0.60
Walnut Marketing Board	6.50
Western United States Agricultural Trade Association	1.40
Wine Institute	3.00

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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USDA ANNOUNCES WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7—An estimated 200 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Sept. 19 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This total includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements.

The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986 through Sept. 19, 1987, is an estimated 1,223,500 head.

The purchases of meat in addition to normal purchases are to help offset the effects of the DTP on the domestic meat market. Cumulative purchases through Oct. 3 total 438,270,160 pounds.

Dairy cattle reported for export under the program for the period April 1, 1986 through Oct. 3, 1987 totaled an estimated 65,754 head. Live cattle exports are in addition to meat purchase requirements.

Cattle Slaughtered, Meat Purchased and Cattle Exported under the Dairy Termination Program¹

Period Ending	Cattle Slaughtered (Number)	Planned Meat Purchases (Pounds)	Meat Purchased (Pounds)	Cattle Reported for Export (Number)
(1986)				
April 26	259,700 ²		21,808,896	
May 31	163,100		69,188,480	6,622
June 28	98,000		67,951,412	7,316
July 26	96,300		60,581,808	6,470
Aug. 30	120,100		56,778,000	10,672
Sept. 27	52,500		20,195,039	4,031
Oct. 25	43,200		788,500	4,032
Nov. 29	45,700		21,564,346	5,371
Dec. 26	43,000		27,399,960	3,474
(1987)				
Jan. 30	49,600		29,239,980	3,355
Feb. 27	39,800		159,984	2,225
March 27	35,900		359,964	1,487
April 24	25,300		359,843	1,090
May 30	29,500		79,992	1,689
June 27	27,100		10,556,480	1,339
July 25	26,300		28,273,000	1,405
Aug.	62,500		22,588,476	2,923
Sept. 5	4,900		-----	306
12	800		-----	892
19	200		-----	592
26			-----	44
Oct. 3			-----	419
Total	1,223,500	382,800,000 ³	438,270,160	65,754

¹Includes all cows, heifers and calves under the DTP.

²Estimated for April 1 - April 26.

³Through the end of the DTP, expressed on a product weight basis .

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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COMMENTS SOUGHT ON GRAZING FEE PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today asked for public comment on a proposal for calculating the fees charged about 13,000 livestock operators to graze sheep and cattle on national forests and land utilization projects in 16 western states.

Douglas W. MacCleery, deputy assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment, said a recent decision by the U.S. District Court for Eastern California directed USDA's Forest Service to collect the public comments as a first step in implementing Executive Order 12548. The court decision was the result of a lawsuit brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council against Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel and Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng.

The proposal would amend existing regulations so the fees would be set by using the formula in the executive order, issued February 1986. That formula consists of a base value of grazing on public lands which is then adjusted to reflect land lease rates, production costs, and beef cattle prices.

Under the proposal, any annual increase or decrease in fees will be limited to no more than 25 percent of the previous year's fee. The fee will not, however, be lower than this year's rate of \$1.35 per animal month.

MacCleery said USDA does not expect the proposal to substantially increase or decrease the current fees. Because this formula will be incorporated into regulations, annual fees after 1988 will simply be announced in a Federal Register notice.

"We're collecting public comments now so that grazing permittees can become familiar with the proposal before the next fee year starts March 1," MacCleery said.

An animal month is the forage consumed by one adult cow and calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats in one month. For billing purposes, any animal more than six months old is considered an adult.

The sixteen states affected by the proposal are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The proposal is being published in the Oct. 7 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from Forest Service regional offices or by writing to F. Dale Robertson, Chief, (2200), Forest Service, USDA, P. O. Box 96090,

Washington, DC 20090-6090. Written comments on the proposal should be sent to the same address and must be received or postmarked no later than Nov. 21 to be considered in developing the final regulations.

Jay Humphreys (202) 447-4211

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